

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08842 032023Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 EB-12 NSF-04 AID-05 NAS-01 HEW-08

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY:

SUBGROUP I-REPORT NO 1

RE: BOGOTA 8623

1) SUMMARY-HEAD OF COLOMBIAN DELEGATION, DR EFRAIM OTERO, MADE CHAIRMAN OF SUBGROUP I AT OPENING SESSION OCT 2, WITH JAMAICAN AS VICE-CHAIRMAN. LEADING LATIN COUNTRIES IN ATTENDANCE, AND EXCEPT FOR MEXICO ARE PLAYING ACTIVE ROLE. MEETING GOT OFF TO INAUSPICIOUS START WHEN AT JAMAICAN SUGGESTION ALL DELEGATIONS EXCEPT US MET TO FORMULATE POSITION TOWARD US, BUT RESULT APPEARS TO BE QUITE MILD. OTHERWISE, FIRST DAY CONSTRUCTIVE AND HOPEFUL, WITH CHAIRMAN OTERO, OTHER COLOMBIANS, ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN ALL CONTRIBUTING SOPHISTICATED, NON-CONFRONTATIONAL COMMENTS, CONCENTRATING SO FAR ON FIRST AGENDA ITEM OF HUMAN RESOURCE ELEMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. END SUMMARY.

2) OPENING SESSION BEGAN WITH CONSTRUCTIVE WELCOMING ADDRESS BY DR. EFRAIM OTERO, MANAGER OF COLOMBIAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FUND (COLCIENCIAS). HE WAS THEN MADE CHAIRMAN

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 08842 032023Z

OF MEETING, AND HEAD OF 2-MAN JAMAICAN DELEGATION,

MARCEL KNIGHT WAS NAME VICE CHAIRMAN. TO OVERCOME JAMAICAN RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT POSITION FOR INABILITY TO SPEAK SPANISH, LATINS "COMPROMISED" BY CREATING POSITION OF SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN AND NAMING MEXICAN DELEGATE TO SLOT. CHILEAN DELEGATE MADE RAPPOORTEUR. IN ADDITION TO JAMAICANS, MEXICAN AND CHILEAN, DELGATES ALSO ATTENDING FROM ARGENTINA BRAZIL (2) AND OAS. LOCAL EMBASSIES MONITORING MEETING FOR EL SALVADOR, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (BOTH MEMBERS OF SUBGROUP), GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA AND URUGUAY. ALTHOUGH VENEZUELAN EMBASSY WAS EXPECTED TO SEND OBSERVER, NONE SHOWED UP FIRST DAY.

3) WITH AGENDA UP FOR APPROVAL, JAMAICANS PROPOSED LATIN-CARIBBEAN WORKING GROUP TO FORMULATE POSITION VIS A VIS US. LATINS AGREED TO DEVOTE REMAINDER OF MORNING SESSION TO INFORMAL MEETING FOR THAT PURPOSE, WITH US DISINVITED. (IN MEANTIME, DRAFT AGENDA PRESENTED BY COLOMBIA, CONFORMING TO OUTLINE IN REFTTEL, MORE OR LESS ACCEPTED BY DEFAULT). AT AFTERNOON SESSION ONE PAGE OF "GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS/ FOR PRESENTATION TO U.S. RESULTS OF MORNINGS MEETING, WAS CIRCULATED. SHORT PAPPER SOMEWHAT OFF TARGET, AND APPARENTLY AIMED MAINLY AT ELICITING U.S. DECLARATION OF EXTENT OF ASSISTANCE WE WILL EVENTUALLY GIVE TO LATIN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. U.S. DELEGATE FOWLER NOTED SUCH A DECLARATION WOULD CLEARLY BE PREMATURE, AND MADE SOME GENERAL COMMENTS ON OTHER POINTS. THIS SEEMED TO SATISFY MOST LATINS, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY JAMAICANS, AND WE HAVE HOPES THAT THESE "GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS" WILL NOT RESURFACE WITH ANY STRENGTH BEHIND THEM.

4) REMAINDER OF FIRST DAY'S SESSION WAS MORE CONSTRUCTIVE. ONLY COLOMBIANS, ARGENTINE, BRAZILIANS AND JAMAICANS, AND TO SLIGHT EXTENT CHILEAN, ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS ALONG WITH U.S. COLOMBIA, JAMAICA AND BRAZIL TABLING PAPERS. JAMIACANS MORE THAN LATINS DIRECTING SOME OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS AGAINST U.S. THIS DIFFERENCE, PLUS JAMAICAN COMPLAINTS ABOUT TRANSLATIONS (SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION PROVIDED AT LAST MINUTE, BUT DOCUMENTS BEING CIRCULATED ONLY IN SPANISH) TENDING TO ISOLATE THEM FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 08842 032023Z

REST OF PARTICIPANTS AS LEAST COOPERATIVE DELEGATION.

5) IN HIS OPENING SPEECH DR OTERO RAISED QUESTION FOR CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER WG ON S/T WILL RESULT IN DUPLICATING EXISTING INTERAMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PART OF A CONTINUUM RATHER THAN SEPARATE SUBJECTS. THESE THEMES MAY GET FURTHER ATTENTION, BUT BULK OF DISCUSSION WAS ON HUMAN

RESOURCE ASPECT OF S/T. BRAIN DRAIN TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
OF COURSE RECEIVED ATTENTION, BUT DISCUSSION ALSO INCLUDED
SOPHISTICATED RECOGNITION BY ACTIVE LATIN PARTICIPANTS
OF OTHER ASPECTS. THEY IDENTIFIED "INTERNAL BRAIN DRAIN"
CONSISTING OF UNDERUTILIZATION OF TRAINEDSCIENTISTS
AND TECHNICIANS. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT TRAINING IS OFTEN
UNRELATED TO MANPOWER NEEDS OF LDC'S. FROM US POINT
OF VIEW MOST CONTRIBUTIONS WERE POSITIVE ALTHOUGH
NOT PARTICULARLY PROFOUND. WE ANTICIPATE MORE OF THE
SAME ON SECOND DAY AS AGENDA MOVES TO INTERNAL DEMAND FOR
S/T AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE AVAILABLE SUPPLY. DISCUSSION
MIGHT MOVE TO SLIGHTLY LESS LOFTY PLANE WHEN AGENDA
THEN TURNS TO FINANCING OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
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